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ISSUES RECOMMENDED FOR CONSIDERATION

The following issues which are pertinent and relevant to the DIA/CIA appraisal are recommended for consideration:

a. Statistical and Quantifying Assessment of Armed Reconnaissance in NVN.

(1) The appraisal addresses primarily the results of air strikes against JCS numbered targets. These air strikes, while significant, represent only a minor portion of the total weight of air effort against North Vietnam. Thus, the major weight of effort is addressed only in generalities without quantifying in terms of percentages and metric tons the impact on LOCs, modes of transportation, and reduction of logistical support to Laos/South Vietnam.

(2) It is, therefore, recommended that the scope of the appraisal be broadened to include a statistical quantifying analysis reflecting the impact of armed reconnaissance operations in North Vietnam as they affect the war in South Vietnam.

b. Geographical Expansions to include Laos.

Additionally, it is recommended that the appraisal be expanded geographically to provide for a recurring statistical, quantifying analysis of the impact of air operations in the Laotian Panhandle. This area is of prime significance in providing logistical access to VC/NVA units in South Vietnam. The DIA Supplement "Weekly Summary of Air Operations - Laos" does not quantify the effects of air strikes in terms of tonnages of supplies destroyed (i.e., secondary explosions), reduction in tonnage capability to transport logistic materials as a result of trucks damaged/destroyed, etc., and as a result does not provide an adequate factual data base to support decisions concerning air operations in this area.

c. Exploitation of VC/NVA POWs and Chieu Hoi Ralliers in South Vietnam.

(1) VC/NVA personnel captured in South Vietnam, and Chieu Hoi ralliers represent a source of quantifying data which should be exploited to the fullest possible extent. SICRs identifying specific items of interest in this regard have been levied on the field for collection. It is recommended that intelligence derived from this source, which reflects the impact of air power in North Vietnam and provides quantifying data, i.e., shortages of ammo and supplies in South Vietnam, be included in the DIA/CIA appraisal.

(2) This source of information should also be included for Laos if the appraisal is expanded geographically as recommended.

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DIA review(s)
completed.